

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, OVIP, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT:ZHIVKOVA VISIT

REF: SOFIA 1110

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF REFTEL WITH AMBASSADOR POPOV. POPOV HAS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR, AND HAS RECOMMENDED TO SOFIA, FOLLOWING SCENARIO: JUNE 7 ARRIVAL; JUNE 8-9 REMAIN IN NEW YORK; JUNE 10, TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON VIA PHILADELPHIA; JUNE 11 TO 12, COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG; JUNE 13-15 WASHINGTON; JUNE 16 AND 17, EITHER BOSTON OR CHICAGO; JUNE 18 DEPART. WE, ON THE OTHER HAND, AGREE WITH YOUR SUGGESTION THAT ZHIVKOVA PLAN TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON LATE ON JUNE 12 AND GO TO WILLIAMSBURG ON JUNE 16. THIS WOULD MEAN (AND MAY BE THE REASON FOR POPOV'S RELUCTANCE) THAT POPOV WOULD HAVE TO KEEP HER IN NEW YORK OR MAKE SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR HER OVER THE WEEK-END.

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PAGE 02 STATE 123569

2. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR HAVING ZHIVKOVA IN WILLIAMSBURG JUNE 16-17 IS HOTEL SPACE. WE HAVE TENTATIVE RESERVATIONS FOR WILLIAMSBURG INN FOR ZHIVKOVA PARTY (ACCOMPANIED BY EUR/EE OFFICER) FOR JUNE 16-17. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, OBTAIN BEST ACCOMODATIONS FOR WEEKEND.

POPOV IS AWARE OF THIS, BUT INSISTS THAT SHE COULD STAY

IN MOTEL OR HOTEL SOME DISTANCE FROM COLONIAL AREA.

3. BY HAVING ZHIVKOVA TRAVEL TO WILLIAMSBURG AT END OF TOUR, WE ALSO AVOID PROBLEM OF SCHEDULING HER FOR ANOTHER US CITY. POPOV HAS RECOMMENDED AGAINST PITTSBURG (WHICH WE THOUGHT WAS FINE) AND WANTS CHICAGO OR BOSTON. WE CAN OF COURSE ARRANGE PROGRAM IN ANY OF THOSE CITIES WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND ART GALLERIES AND POSSIBLY LOCAL OFFICIALS BUT ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE PITTSBURGH GROUP WOULD PUT ON THE BEST SHOW.

4. SUGGEST YOU GET TOGETHER WITH MFA ASAP RE PROGRAM. YOU MIGHT POINT OUT THAT WHILE POPOV WISHES TO TAKE ZHIVKOVA TO WILLIAMSBURG OVER WEEKEND, MUCH BETTER ACCOMODATIONS AND A MORE IMPRESSIVE PROGRAM CAN BE ARRANGED THERE LATE IN WEEK. WE SEE NO REASON WHY POPOV SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE SOME RELAXING PROGRAM FOR THE WEEKEND. WE COULD HEEP WITH SIGHT-SEEING TYPE ARRANGEMENTS PUT ANY OFFICIAL OR SEMI-OFFICIAL MEETINGS OVER WEEKEND WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE.

5. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED SOFIA 1136 RE ZHIVKOVA'S PREFERENCES. ONLY PROBLEM WE SEE IS THAT POPOV WAS PLANNING RECEPTION FOR ZHIVKOVA EVENING OF JUNE 15. WHILE POPOV CAN CHANGE PLANS, WE HAVE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED CALL ON DEP SEC CHRISTOPHER AT 3:30 PM JUNE 15, WHICH WOULD MAKE DEPARTURE FOR WILLIAMSBURG VERY LATE IN AFTERNOON. WOULD IT BE WORTHWHILE TO SUGGEST BACK TO MFA THAT ZHIVKOVA LEAVE FOR WILLIAMSBURG JUNE 16, STAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 123569

OVERNIGHT, AND RETURN TO WASHINGTON JUNE 17 FOR JUNE 18 DEPARTURE? PRESUMABLY ZHIVKOVA WANTS TO FLY CONCORDE, AND WE FIND THAT THERE IS A CONCORDE DEPARTURE FROM DULLES SATURDAY JUNE 18.

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